



BERKSHIRE COUNTY SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

40-hour Basic Operator's
Course



2010



INTRODUCTION TO BASIC SWAT PRINCIPLES

History and Purpose of SWAT
Basic Tactical Concepts
Room Entry Techniques

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CADRE INTRODUCTIONS



STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

- NAME
- DEPARTMENT
- YEARS ON THE JOB
- CURRENT ASSIGNMENT
- SWAT EXPERIENCE



Introduction to SWAT



05/04/2007



History of SWAT

- Prior to the 1960's
 - Local police in major cities were facing increasingly organized and well-armed adversaries
 - Traditional response included uniformed patrol officers and a large volume of gunfire
 - This response placed both civilian bystanders and responding officers at risk
- This response, while effective was becoming increasingly costly
- August 1965, Los Angeles erupts w/ Watts Riots



Texas Tower Shooting

August 1, 1966

- Charles Whitman, USMC vet, with history of increasing hostility and aggression
- Kills his mother, Margaret, in her bed
- Returns home and kills his wife, Kathy, while she sleeps
- 0545 calls Kathy's workplace and claims she is sick
- Approximately 1130 hours, Whitman wheels a dolly into the U of T-Austin's Administration Building



Texas Tower Shooting

August 1, 1966

- Footlocker contains
 - Sawed off shotgun
 - Scoped Remington 700 rifle
 - M1 Carbine
 - .35 caliber Remington rifle
 - Three handguns
 - Ammunition
 - Food
 - Binoculars
- Kills receptionist



Texas Tower Shooting

August 1, 1966

- Barricades stairway
- Fires on two families coming up the stairs
- 1148—First shots are fired from the Tower's observation deck
- Several people are shot in the South Mall
- All active Austin police officers are ordered to the tower
- Off-duty officers, sheriff's deputies and DPS officers also converge on the building



Texas Tower Shooting

August 1, 1966

- A police spotter in a small plane reports that there is only one sniper on the building
- Whitman fires on the plane
- Officers Ramiro Martinez, Houston McCoy and Jerry Day deputize civilian Allen Crum and proceed to the observation deck
- Armed with a .38 and a shotgun, Martinez and McCoy locate Whitman and fire on him
- 96 minutes; 17 KIA; 31 wounded



LAPD SWAT

- 1967 LAPD
- Metro Division-D Platoon
- Counter-sniper and other high-risk, high-energy situations
- In the past would have provoked a large number of shots being fired





LAPD SWAT

“The purpose of SWAT is to provide protection, support, security, firepower and rescue to police operations in high personal risk situations where specialized tactics are necessary to minimize casualties.”

--1974 SLA After Action Report





*When citizen's are in trouble,
they call the Police....
When the Police are in trouble,
they call SWAT.*



Backlash

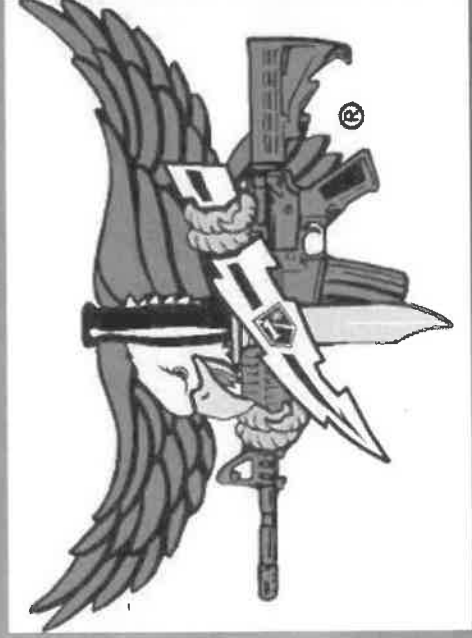
- In the mid-1990s, due to the “War on Drugs”, the U.S. Military provided thousands of pieces of military equipment and hardware to state and Local LEOs
- By the early 2000s, full-time and part-time special operations teams spread throughout American Law Enforcement
- In 2006, Radley Balko of the Cato Institute authored *Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America*.



Law Enforcement Response

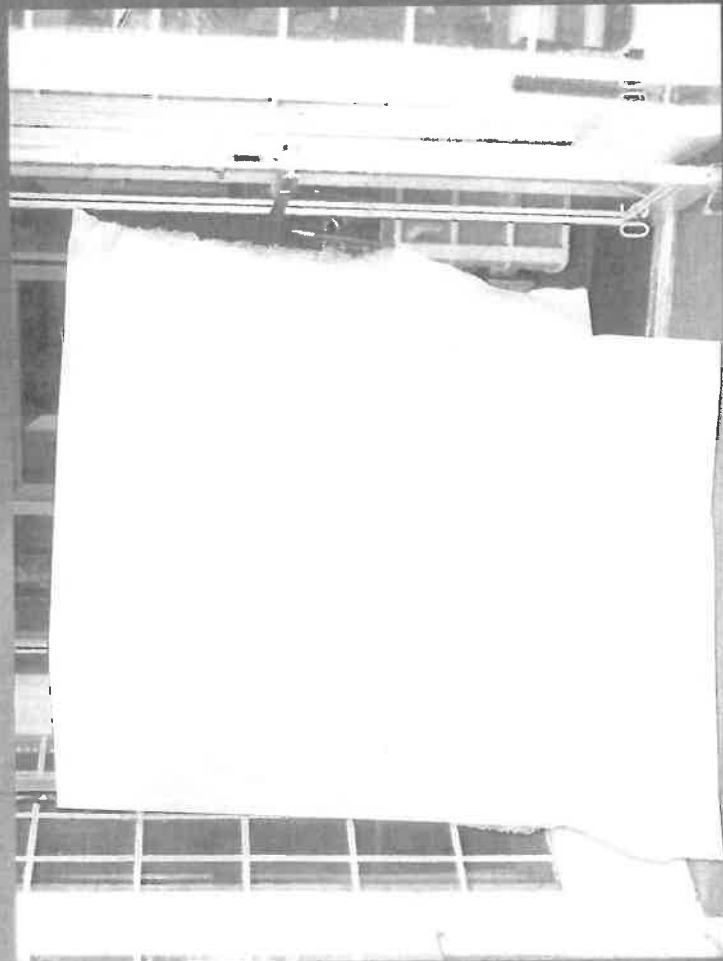
- National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA) releases their statistics based response:
 - Based on NTOA data, utilization of SWAT results in less loss of life

SWAT is a life saving resource!





SWAT SAVES LIVES!!!





Team Priorities

- To respond to critical law enforcement emergencies
- To SLOW DOWN the LE response
- To provide LE command with options to resolve the incident
 - Scene containment
 - Negotiated surrender
 - Gas plan
 - Mobile option
 - Sniper plan
 - Entry plan
 - Assault plan



History and Evolution of BCSRT



- “Goon Squad”
- Pittsfield PD SRT
- LAPD SWAT school
- Singleton International Basic Course; Yarmouth
- 103 Bradford Street
- Berkshire County Special Response Mutual Aid
- Singleton International Basic Course; Berkshire
- BCSRT Basic Operator’s Course--2007



TACTICAL TEAM CONCEPTS





WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE CLASS

- IMPROVED WEAPONS & TACTICAL SKILLS
- LESSONS LEARNED TO HELP YOU
- HAVE FUN



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU

- BE SAFE & PROFESSIONAL AS APPROPRIATE
- ASK QUESTIONS
- LEARN!
- HAVE FUN!!



TACTICAL TEAM

OBJECTIVE: To supply county departments with a team of selected officers capable of working together as a special tactical unit. They must be capable of supplying a variety of options and advanced tactics *which may include aggressive physical assistance* to a given task where the level of threat is above the normal capabilities of regular uniform police work.



Operator Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITIES: To be at an operational state of readiness by maintaining a high level of proficiency with regards to the various options likely to develop:



BCSRT Missions

- Riots
- Civil Disturbances
- High Risk Search and Arrest Warrants
- High Risk Tactical Searches for Armed and/or Dangerous Perpetrators.
- Dignitary Protection
- Manmade Disasters
- Natural Disasters
- Search and Rescue
- Natural Disasters
- Search and Rescue
- Wanted Person or Escaped Prisoners
- Snipers
- Barricaded Perpetrators/EDPs
- Vehicle Assaults
- Hostage Taking
- Other Critical Incidents



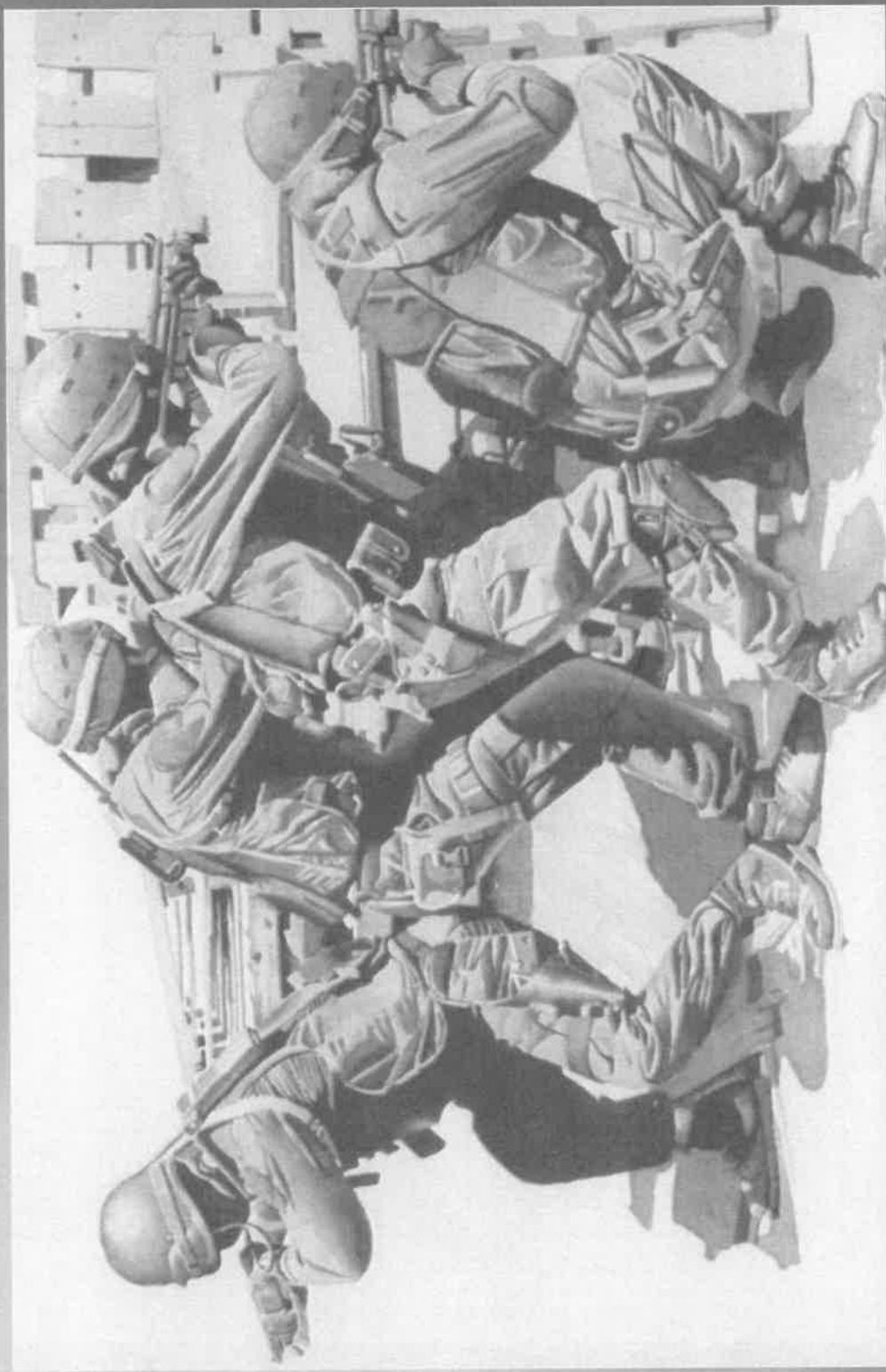
RELEVANT CASE LAW

- **Graham v. Connor**
- **Langford v. Gates**





BASIC TACTICAL CONCERNS





BASIC TACTICAL CONCERNS

- **If you use lethal force, you must tell the truth!**
- **We own every round we fire, or they will own us!!!**



- IT MUST BE THE SUSPECT
- HE/SHE MUST BE ARMED (OR PERCEIVED AS ARMED)





BASIC TACTICAL CONCERNS

- A MINIMUM NUMBER OF
OFFICERS FIRED
- A MINIMUM NUMBER OF
ROUNDS FIRED



➤ YOU SHOULD HAVE LESS LETHAL OPTIONS





BASIC TACTICAL CONCERNS

- YOU SHOULD HAVE ADVANCED TRAINING SKILLS WITH YOUR WEAPONS
- YOU SHOULD RENDER FIRST AID AS NECESSARY



BASIC TACTICAL CONCERNS

- YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM
PROFANITY
- YOU SHOULD HAVE VERBAL
SKILLS--CRISIS REDUCTION
TECHNIQUES



Operator Selection

- Judgment
- Discipline
- Skill
- Fitness
- Attitude
- Aggression



Operator Selection

- THOSE CHOSEN MUST BE THE BEST SUITED TO THE DEMANDS OF THE JOB





IMMEDIATE THREAT CONCEPT





TEAM ASSAULT

- **CONSIDER MULTIPLE ENTRY POINTS**
 - Be cautious of “Blue on Blue” situations
- **USE UNANTICIPATED ENTRY POINT(S)**



TEAM ASSAULT

- **SURROUND & SEAL OFF ESCAPE ROUTES**
- **APPROPRIATE TECHNIQUES FOR SITUATION**



TEAM ASSAULT

- **EVERYONE IS A SUSPECT UNTIL CHECKED**
- **NUMBER OFF ROOMS TO ASSIST WITH CLEARING**
- **ANNOUNCE BEFORE EXITING A ROOM**



COMMAND & CONTROL

- TEAM LEADER ACTS AS
“TRAFFIC COP”
 - “HALL BOSS”
- INITIAL & SECONDARY SEARCH
OF A ROOM
- GUARD/CONTROL EACH ROOM
IF POSSIBLE



COMMAND & CONTROL

- TEAM LEADER'S REPORT TO CP
- PHYSICAL STATUS CHECK AT ENTRY POINT
 - Team Leader/TEMS/Team Doc
- TEAM AVAILABILITY
- CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS



Operator Selection

- EACH TEAM MEMBER MUST
 - BE SELECTED BASED ON FAIR MENTAL & PHYSICAL ABILITY STANDARDS
 - NOT BE SELECTED BASED ON POLITICS
 - EARN THE TRUST AND RESPECT OF THE TEAM
- FIT INTO THE TEAM REGARDLESS OF SKILL LEVEL



ASSAULT TEAM MEMBERS





ASSAULT TEAM MEMBERS

- **MUST BE:**
 - **COMPETENT & CONFIDENT WITH WEAPONRY & EQUIPMENT**
 - **PHYSICALLY & MENTALLY CAPABLE OF WINNING AN AGGRESSIVE, PROACTIVE CONFRONTATION**
 - **MENTALLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE STRESS & DANGER INVOLVED**



TRAINING

- A TACTICAL TEAM'S TRAINING PROGRAM MUST BE REALITY BASED
- RANGE/OPERATIONAL TRAINING SHOULD BE AS IDENTICAL AS POSSIBLE



TRAINING

- **AN OPERATION IS AN EXERCISE WITH A LIVE THREAT**
 - Training is bloodless combat....
 - ...Operations are training...with the element of risk
- **THE WAY YOU OPERATE IS THE WAY YOU TRAIN**
 - We train like we work....we work like we train!!!



TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

- LANGFORD V. GATES
- REALISTIC TO OPERATIONAL TASKS
- RANGE "VS." OPERATIONS



Complete Range of Training

- DYNAMIC “vs.” SLOW & DELIBERATE
- GYM “vs.” STREET



TRAINING SHOULD INVOLVE:

- P.T. TEST THAT INCLUDES OBSTACLES
- FAMILIARITY WITH ALL WEAPONS
- COMPETENCY WITH BASIC EQUIPMENT
- UNDERSTANDING OF SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT
- ROLES OF ALL TEAM MEMBERS & PLANNING INVOLVED
- REALITY BASED EXERCISES



RANGE PROGRAMS





RANGE PROGRAMS:

- SAFETY IS THE FIRST CONCERN
- START WITH BASICS & ADVANCE ONLY WHEN COMPETENT
- STATIC, TURNING & MOVING EXERCISES
- DAYLIGHT “vs.” LOW OR NO LIGHT
- RANGE “vs.” LIVE FIRE SHOOT HOUSE
- FATIGUE “vs.” STRESS TRAINING
- DECISION MAKING TARGETS



RANGE WEAR vs. CALL OUT WEAR





TRAINING EXERCISES





TRAINING EXERCISES:

- SAFETY IS THE FIRST CONCERN
- REALISTIC, LOGICAL & OBJECTIVE ORIENTED
- INCLUDE WHOLE OPERATION EXERCISES
- WEAPON RETENTION & DEFENSIVE TACTICS
- ARREST & CONTROL TECHNIQUES....



➤ MEDICAL AID/OFFICER DOWN DRILLS





COMMAND & CONTROL





- LEVELS OF COMMAND
 - INCIDENT COMMANDER
 - TACTICAL TEAM COMMANDER
 - ASSAULT COMMANDER
 - SUB-UNIT TEAM LEADERS



COMMAND & CONTROL

- ALL MUST UNDERSTAND THE LEVELS
- MUST BE CAPABLE OF ASSUMING THE NEXT LEVEL IF AN EMERGENCY ARISES
- COMMAND & CONTROL ERRORS
 - Discuss Examples



COMMUNICATIONS

- RADIO
 - DEDICATED/SECURE FREQUENCIES
 - DISPATCH/CP ADVISED AS APPROPRAITE
 - RADIO DISCIPLINE



COMMUNICATIONS

- **USE PLAIN ENGLISH**
- **CODEWORDS USED APPROPRIATELY**
- **EXTERNAL RADIO SILENCE DURING ASSAULT**



COMMUNICATIONS

- **HAND SIGNS**
- **LIMITED VALUE**
- **OTHER OPTIONS**
- **PHYSICAL CONTACT**
- **DIVERSIONS**



TEAM PLANNING





CALL-OUT

- TEAM ACTIVATED
- INNER/OUTER PERIMETERS & CP ESTABLISHED
- TEAM ARRIVES AT CP
- EMERGENCY REACTION TEAM DEPLOYED
 - REACT Team
 - Immediate Action Team



TEAM BRIEFED





➤ **TEAM MEMBERS ASSIGNED MISSIONS**

➤ **EQUIPMENT CHECK**

➤ **WEAPONS CHECK**



➤ **SNIPER/OBSERVER TEAM DEPLOYS**

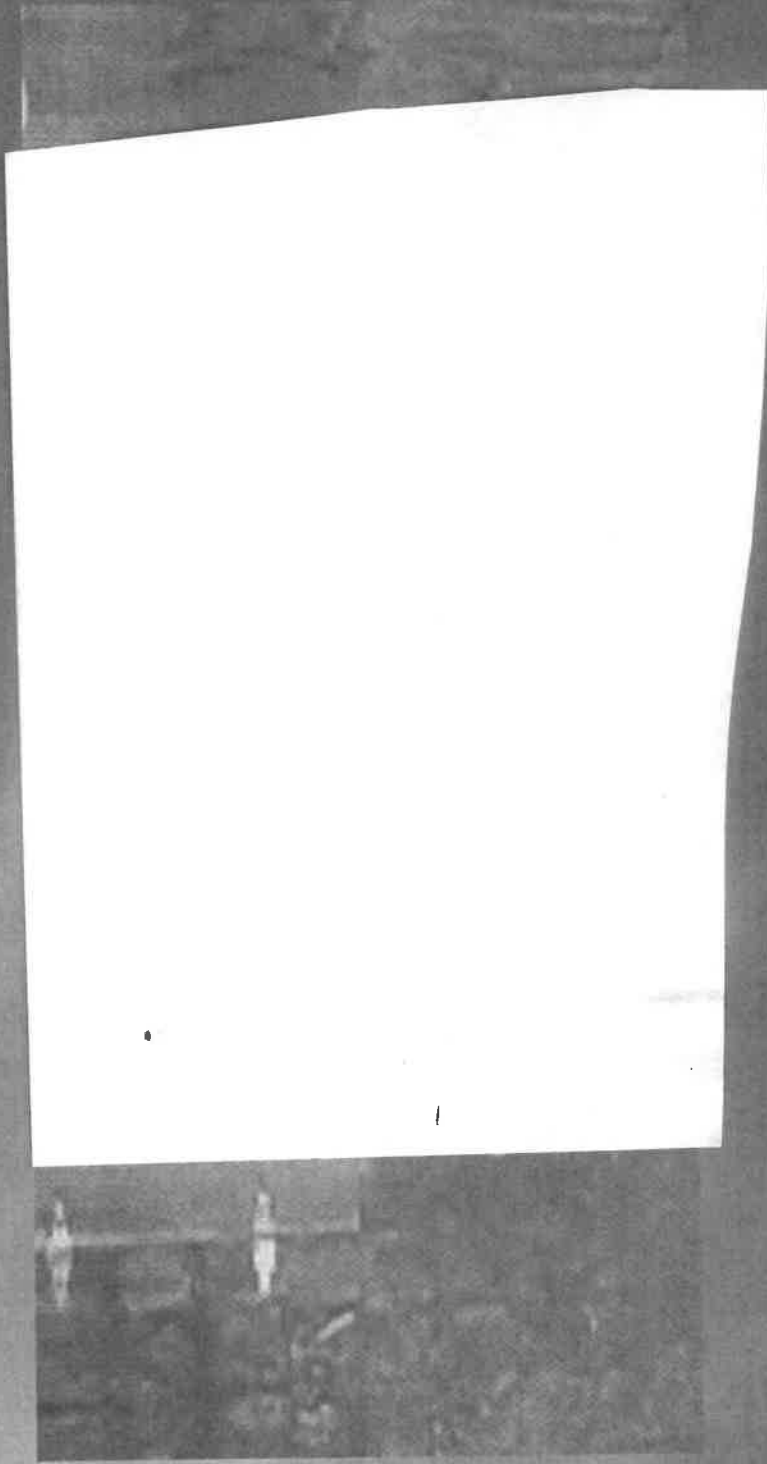


➤ **RECON/REACT TEAM(S) MOVES OUT**



INTEL GATHERING

- SUSPECT/HOSTAGE INFO
- WEAPONS & THREAT ASSESSMENT

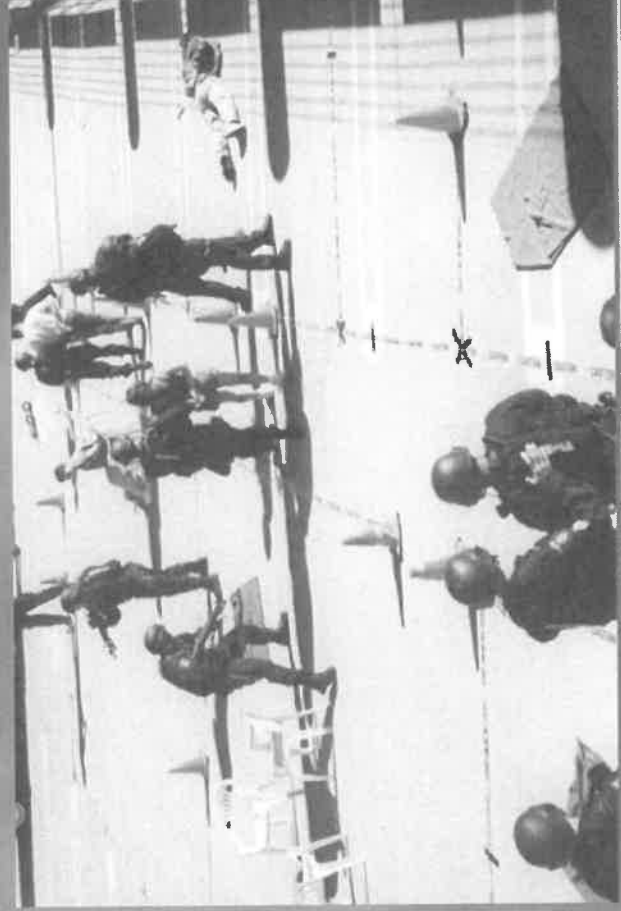




- **WITNESSES & OTHERS INVOLVED**
- **TARGET INFORMATION**
- **TARGET'S SURROUNDING AREA**
- **ROUTE TO & FROM TARGET & DESIGNATED RALLY POINT**



- RECONNAISSANCE
- TEAM BRIEF
- TEAM WALK THROUGH





OPERATIONAL ORDERS

- IMMEDIATE ACTION
- DELIBERATE ACTION ORDER
- ORDERS/MISSIONS BRIEFED TO THE TEAM



P.A.C.A.

- **PRIMARY BREACH POINT & INITIATION COMMANDS**
- **ALTERNATE BREACH POINT**
- **COMPROMISE INSTRUCTIONS**
- **ABORT INSTRUCTIONS**



ASSAULT PHASE





ASSAULT PHASE

- REACT TEAM
- FINAL WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT CHECKS
- MOVE TO FINAL ASSAULT LOCATION
 - Last Point of Cover & Concealment (LPCC)
- STATUS CHECK WITH SNIPER/OBSERVER TEAM



ASSAULT PHASE (Cont.)

- DIVERSIONS/DISTRACTIONS
- ENTRY POINTS
- CONTROL OF TARGET & ALL INSIDE





ASSAULT PHASE (Cont.)

- EXTERIOR ARREST TEAM IN
- PARAMEDICS NEEDED?
- EVACUATION/EXTRACTION
- COMMUNICATION & HAND OVER
- WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT CHECK
- TEAM EXFILTRATION & DEBRIEF



TEAM DEBRIEF

- ALL PERSONNEL ACCOUNTED FOR
- WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT CHECKED
- MEDICAL AID FOR TEAM MEMBERS



TEAM DEBRIEF

- LEVEL OF FORCE USED:
- SHOTS FIRED/OTHER FORCE USED
- SUSPECTS' AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE
- HANDS-ON CONTROL TECHNIQUES





TEAM DEBRIEF

- DIVERSIONS FROM PLAN
- SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES & PROBLEMS
- CHANGES/IMPROVEMENTS



RECON/SCOUTING MISSION

- ADDRESS
- AVENUES OF APPROACH
- OBSTACLES
- COVER & CONCEALMENT



RECON/SCOUTING MISSION

- **FIELDS OF FIRE**
- **VANTAGE POINTS**
- **LIGHTING LOCATIONS**



RECON/SCOUTING MISSION

- OPEN AREAS
- LANDSCAPE OF AREA
- STRUCTURAL SHAPE OF LOCATION



RECON/SCOUTING MISSION

- **VEHICLES**
- **UTILITIES**
- **PERSONS OBSERVED**
- **STAGING AREA**



LOCATION INTELLIGENCE

- INFORMANTS
- BLUEPRINTS/SIMILAR STRUCTURES
- PHONES OR OTHER COMMUNICATION
- UTILITIES



LOCATION INTELLIGENCE

➤ **WINDOWS & DOORS**

➤ **ROOF**

➤ **STAIRWAYS**

➤ **MISCELLANEOUS**



TACTICS





TACTICS

To a law enforcement officer, the very sound of the word means movement, teamwork, changes in a situation and constant mental effort. And that is what tactics really are--an integral part of police art: ever developing, reacting to changes in technology, arms, means of control and the criminal's methods of operation.



TACTICS

**Tactics & routine are poor bedfellows.
To learn what is necessary in a
confrontation means to possess a
whole variety of tactical skills, keeping
in mind that only he who is capable of
creativity & initiative will win in the
end.**



TACTICS

SWAT/SRT tactics are not *SPECIAL*.

Instead, they are normal, basic, law enforcement techniques that have been practiced and enhanced to the point that they become *ADVANCED*.

SWAT tactics are the refinement of daily operational techniques to the purest, simplest form.



TACTICAL WEAPONS SAFETY





MOVEMENT





TWO TYPES OF THREATS:

- ▣ GEOGRAPHIC vs.. HUMAN THREATS
- ▣ PRIMARY THREAT IS A HUMAN BEING
- ▣ GEOGRAPHIC (SECONDARY): DOORS, STAIRS, CLOSETS, ETC



CONTACT

- **VERBALIZE: "SUSPECT! POLICE! DON'T MOVE"**
- **CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY ONE OFFICER**





SLOW & DELIBERATE

PRINCIPALS

- **360 DEGREE PROTECTION**
- **NOISE DISCIPLINE AS NECESSARY**
- **TAKE GROUND FROM THE SUSPECT**
- **MOVEMENT OF TACTICAL CHESS PIECES**
- **ANALOGY**
- **COVER & CONCEALMENT "vs.." SPEED**

*Reach to Contact***"*



SLOW & DELIBERATE

- **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**
- **TEAM EFFORT**
- **IF IN DOUBT, CHECK IT OUT**
- **SWITCH TO DYNAMIC ENTRY IF NEEDED**



- **READ THE ROOM BEFORE ENTRY**
- **SECURE EACH AREA BEFORE PROCEEDING**
- **KEEP DOORS OPEN ONCE ENTERED?**



STAIRWAYS

